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**From:** 'Gary Wager' <gwager@chartermi.net>  
**To:** SAMUEL BORRIES/R5/USEPA/US@EPA, Shari Kolak/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

**Date:** Tuesday, April 24, 2007 09:05PM

**Subject:** Questions for Weds Mtg in Kalamazoo

**History:** This message has been forwarded.

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Hello, I am looking forward to your visit to Edison Neighborhood Association tomorrow afternoon. I think Tammy was going to forward some questions to you as well, and these may be duplicates, but here are a few some folks have asked.

Invitation to KNC meeting on Thursday, at 11:30 is still open as well, for a more intimate meeting with a smaller group of neighborhood leaders.

Thanks especially to Shari and Sam for staying so late after the WMU forum.

You guys are real troopers!

Gary Wager,  
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Chairperson, Kalamazoo Neighborhoods Coalition (KNC)  
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"We do not inherit the environment from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children".

Native American proverb

**Attachments:**

Questions for EPA Kalamazoo River Project.doc

Could you put the threat to public health of PCBs into an understandable context?

Relative safety of PCB found in the atmosphere

in wild game captured for food consumption in or around the Kalamazoo River

dissolved in the Kalamazoo River

suspended in the Kalamazoo River

soils on river banks and former impoundments

leached from an unlined, uncapped landfill above the water table?

leached from a lined, capped landfill constructed to current design standards?

Where do PCBs fit in terms of danger to human health relative to other known slow-acting toxins such as mercury, alcohol, cigarette smoke, nitrosamines from overcooking proteins, arsenic, etc.?

We understand that, according to EPA regulations, the EPA CAN DO what it plans to do. Why would it WANT to do this? - That is, place additional PCB-laden spoil in a disposal site intended originally for construction debris already containing PCBs located above the water supply of a city with no opportunity for public comment or input before contracts were signed?

What is the justification for calling this remediation of the Plainwell Impoundment TIME CRITICAL? Was it Time-Critical in December of 2006 when the EPA issued an interim report? Was it time critical when the EPA entered into private, mediated negotiations with the PRPs two years ago?

Why is the MDEQ supporting this plan? Was the MDEQ a participant in the negotiations with the PRPs?

We want a chance to evaluate other options. What were they, and why did you decide against them?

What value criteria were used in deciding in favor of this option and against others? (objective and subjective)

How would you answer the charge that this plan could be perceived as environmental racism? That is, taking advantage of the power of the PRPs and the Federal Government relative to those living in the affected area?\*

There is a good deal of confusion over just how dangerous PCBs are in their present locations along Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River. How much of what you propose is the result of good science and how much is the result of applying rules?

How does this TCRA (Time-Critical Remedial Action) fit in with a comprehensive solution to the PCB contamination of the Kalamazoo River watershed?

Can this remedial action be delayed until there is a comprehensive plan for dealing with all sediments requiring removal or isolation from surface water or underground aquifers?

What, in your opinion, will it take to get a re-evaluation of this plan, with cost/benefits of other options brought to be public for review, comment and approval by local governmental bodies?

What, would you do, if you were free to act, to restore public confidence in the workings of the USEPA and the MDEQ relative to this Region 5 issue?